

## ABSTRACT

The present invention provides polymers which are substantially or completely free of inorganic contaminants and the use of such polymers as a resin component for photoresist compositions, particularly chemically-amplified positive-acting resists. Polymers of the invention also are suitable for use as a resin component for antireflective coating compositions (ARCs). More particularly, the invention provides methods for reducing such contaminants in polymerization initiators, particularly free radical initiators.

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